Congratulations! You made it!
Your Senior Education Profile
OPs and FPs: Get the facts
Tertiary study offers: Don’t delay!
Student profiles
Want to talk about your results?
CONGRATULATIONS!
YOU MADE IT!

Great work on reaching the end of your senior schooling. Now it’s time to celebrate your success and set your sights on the future.

Most of you will have achieved a Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) — Queensland’s senior schooling qualification. Find out how to make the most of your QCE on page 6.

If you missed out on a QCE this year, don’t worry. You can keep working towards one after finishing Year 12. See page 8 for more details.

Got a question about your results? You’ll find answers to frequently asked questions about the Overall Position (OP) and Field Positions (FPs) on page 10.

If you’re considering further study, make sure you check page 12 for key dates for tertiary entrance and make a note of the critical deadlines so you don’t miss out on offers for 2018.

If you’re still not sure what you want to do next year, the student profiles throughout the magazine or the websites listed on page 16 may help you decide.

Whatever pathway you choose — work, further education or training — we hope you find this issue of Student Connect magazine useful.

Good luck and best wishes for the exciting road ahead!

QCE ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The annual QCE Achievement Awards recognise and reward Queensland’s top performing Year 12 graduates for outstanding academic achievement. There are seven award categories:

- Distinguished Academic Achievers
- Outstanding Academic Achiever
- Highest Achievement by an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Student
- Highest Result on the Queensland Core Skills Test
- Highest Achievement in the International Baccalaureate
- Certificate of Academic Commendation.

Award winners will be officially announced at the awards ceremony on Saturday 17 February 2018 at the State Library of Queensland. For more information about the QCE Achievement Awards, visit www.qcaa.qld.edu.au or email communications@qcaa.qld.edu.au.

The QCAA would like to thank the following universities for their sponsorship and support for this prestigious awards program.
At times I felt like throwing in the towel but when I look back now, school was so enjoyable.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Siobhan Hayter’s career goals started to form at the age of eight after reading her mum’s nursing textbooks. Today she’s a trainee nurse but hopes it’s just the latest stage on the path to becoming an obstetrician.

At school Siobhan combined her senior subjects with a traineeship in Health Services Assistance and two part-time jobs.

‘I found the workload hard to manage at first, but once I got into the rhythm I enjoyed being busy,’ she said.

‘I also had a lot of support from my teachers. One or two thought my grades would slip with my traineeship, but they were the ones who pushed me through.’

Siobhan credits her traineeship with helping her achieve a seamless transition to post-school work and study.

‘Before I left school I was offered a job as an assistant nurse, so I was already planning for my first day at work while I was at schoolies,’ she said.

‘I’m now based in the maternity ward at Caboolture Hospital while studying for a Bachelor of Nursing.

‘I feel lucky to be able to be involved in a field I’m passionate about.

‘I want to graduate from nursing and become a midwife, then work my way up to unit manager or director of nursing.

‘I’m also thinking about studying medicine and becoming an obstetrician, but that’s a long way off.’

Siobhan’s advice to school leavers: No matter how you feel or what you’re going through, the effort is worth it.

Siobhan Hayter, 18
Tullawong State High School

YOUR SENIOR EDUCATION PROFILE

At the end of Year 12 all Queensland students receive a Senior Education Profile (SEP). Depending on your individual circumstances, it may include:

- **QCE** — To be awarded a QCE, you need to have completed 20 credits at a set standard, in a set pattern and have met the literacy and numeracy requirements.

- **Tertiary Entrance Statement** — If you are OP-eligible, you will receive a Tertiary Entrance Statement which shows your OP and FPs. These rankings are used to determine eligibility for admission to tertiary courses.

- **Senior Statement** — All students who finish Year 12 receive a Senior Statement. It shows your results in everything you studied that contributes to the award of the QCE or Tertiary Entrance Statement. This includes your subject results, VET results and QCS Test grade.

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Wondering if science is for you?

With over 60 disciplines across our 17 science degree programs, The University of Queensland offers you the widest choice to start your career in science.

The hardest part is choosing what you’ll study!

Find out more future-students.uq.edu.au
HOW TO GET YOUR RESULTS CHECKED

To get your results or any other information on your QCE, Tertiary Entrance Statement or Senior Statement checked, you need to fill in the Application for verification or review of information form sent to you with your Senior Education Profile.

Send the completed form with the $51.70 application fee to QCAA at the address below, before 5 pm on Monday 8 January 2018:
Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority
PO Box 307, Spring Hill, QLD 4004

If an error is found, QCAA will refund your application fee and send you updated documents. We will also let QTAC know about the error.

OPs and FPs

Your subject results appear on your Senior Statement. Schools assign levels of achievement and send the results to the QCAA.

If you apply to have your OP and FPs checked, we will ask your school to look over your results again, but we won’t reassess your work and we can’t change your school’s decisions.

If an error was made, we will correct it, issue you with new documents, and refund your application fee.

We cannot change your OP due to individual circumstances such as illness. If you believe you experienced difficult circumstances that adversely affected your senior studies, contact QTAC on 1300 467 822 to find out about its Educational Access Scheme (EAS).

QCS Test grade

If you apply to have your QCS Test grade reviewed, QCAA will check that we scanned the mark sheets, entered your results and calculated your grade correctly. We won’t re-mark your QCS Test, because it has already been marked by multiple markers.

VET results

Your results from courses studied through VET and other non-school providers will only appear on your Senior Statement if the provider recorded your learning before 23 November 2017.

If you believe some of your VET results are missing, you should contact your school (if you were enrolled in VET through your school) or the relevant registered training organisation (if you completed a VET qualification through an external provider). You then need to apply to the QCAA to get your results checked.

If it turns out that your VET provider didn’t accurately record your results, we will send you a new Senior Statement and refund your application fee. If you now qualify for a QCE, we will post it to you after the situation is resolved.
POST-SCHOOL PATHWAYS: WHERE DO YOU FIT?

Based on trends in the Queensland Government’s Next Step survey of school leavers, the class of 2017 are likely to follow a wide range of post-school pathways in 2018:

- around 60% will do some form of further education or training:
  - 40% will go straight to university
  - 20% will study vocational education and training (VET) courses, with around 8% starting an apprenticeship or traineeship
- about 27% will be employed
- approximately 11% will be seeking work
- less than 3% will not be in the labour force, education or training.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR QCE

Your QCE recognises and celebrates your senior schooling achievements. It shows employers and training providers that you have worked consistently and to a high standard.

Be proud of your QCE. Mention it in your résumé and show it off alongside your Senior Statement and — if you received an Overall Position (OP) — your Tertiary Entrance Statement in a portfolio of achievements.

Mention the subjects you studied and the results you achieved to market yourself in cover letters for job applications and in job interviews.

The QCE is an internationally recognised qualification. This means that employers and education institutions around the world accept the QCE as evidence that you have successfully completed your senior schooling.

Many overseas universities, including universities in the United States, Europe and South-East Asia, require the QCE as a prerequisite for admission.

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CLASS ACTION

Sharing his knowledge with others is helping Mitch Bruce work towards his future career.

With a flair for mathematics, Mitch is working as a tutor while studying a Bachelor of Business/Law at QUT.

As well as private tutoring, he works with groups of students at his former school, Marist College Ashgrove.

‘Tutoring offers great flexibility with my timetable and I enjoy being busy,’ Mitch said.

‘I’ve always loved maths and helping others to learn is very rewarding.

‘My teachers were very dedicated, so it’s great to make a difference by passing on their knowledge to others.’

While he’s only in his first year at university, Mitch hopes to become a lawyer.

‘It’s still early days, but I’m looking at an internship next year to decide if it’s really the career for me,’ he said.

‘I wasn’t one of those people who knew exactly what they wanted to do after school, so choosing what to study wasn’t easy.

‘Legal Studies was a favourite subject at school. I found it interesting and the assessment suited my analytical style of writing.

‘If you have a genuine interest, it’s easier to put the effort in and do well.’

Mitch’s advice for school leavers: Year 12 is difficult, but if you’ve put in the effort you can look back and feel proud.

Mitch Bruce, 18
Marist College Ashgrove

Subjects: Chemistry, English, French, Legal Studies, Mathematics B, Study of Religion

“I was heavily into sport at school – it helped with stress and created balance.”
NO QCE?
DON’T WORRY!

If you didn’t get a QCE this year, don’t be too disheartened. You can keep working towards it after you finish Year 12.

To earn credits towards your QCE after you’ve left school, and/or meet the completed Core requirement, you can choose from a range of VET Certificate II–IV qualifications offered by TAFE Queensland and other providers.

If you didn’t meet the literacy and/or numeracy requirements, you have a number of options:

- completing the QCAA-developed short course in literacy and/or numeracy offered by Charters Towers School of Distance Education
- completing the Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways (which covers both the literacy and numeracy requirements) at a registered training organisation
- completing a literacy and/or numeracy course recognised by the QCAA (search ‘recognised studies’ at www.qcaa.qld.edu.au for more information)
- sitting the QCS Test in September as a private-entry candidate and achieving at least a C on the test.

Get the credit

Remember to give your new learning provider your Learner Unique Identifier (LUI) when you enrol, so they can bank the credits you earn in your learning account on the Student Connect website. Your LUI is noted along the bottom of your Senior Statement. Once you’ve met the requirements for a QCE, the QCAA will issue your QCE and a Statement of Results in the following July or December.

For help planning your QCE pathway after Year 12, email studentconnect@qcaa.qld.edu.au

Have your say...

take part in the
Next Step survey!

Who? You! All students who completed Year 12 in 2017 in Queensland will be contacted to take part in the survey.

What? The Next Step survey will ask you what you are doing after you leave school - this could be studying, working or pursuing other interests.

How? Expect to be contacted by phone or mail. To enable us to contact you, please ensure your details, including your home phone and mobile numbers, are correct in your learning account by logging into www.studentconnect.qcaa.qld.edu.au

When? March to June 2018

Why? Your participation in the Next Step survey will help Queensland schools and further education providers improve their services for future students.

More info at www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep

Authorised by the Queensland Government, William St, Brisbane
LUKE LEAVES NO STONE UNTURNED

For Luke Morgenstern, the decision to remain open-minded in his search for a school-based apprenticeship has paid off.

‘Initially I wanted to get into carpentry or electrical. I approached more than 30 companies but none of them were taking on any new apprentices,’ he said.

‘So I decided to look at other trades where there might be more jobs on offer.

‘Mum suggested stonemasonry and the first business I called wanted me straight away.’

Luke’s willingness to try other options has resulted in a rewarding career.

‘I enjoy the creativity and like working with the different types of stone – we use granite, marble and sandstone mostly,’ he said.

‘At first, I did a lot of monument work but now I’m doing more kitchen benchtops.

‘I found it hard to study at school because I don’t like to sit still, so my apprenticeship meant I was learning new things and earning money.’

Luke is now working full time with the same company and is looking forward to completing his apprenticeship and taking on more responsibility.

‘My subject choices at school were limited due to my apprenticeship, but I did enjoy Business Studies. I could see that it was preparing me for the future, so found it easier to relate to than my other subjects,’ he said.

‘I’d like to move into a managerial role one day, so hope to use that knowledge, as well as my trade.’

Luke’s advice to school leavers: Chase what you want in life. Don’t waste time doing things you don’t want to do.

Luke Morgenstern, 18
Brisbane Christian College

Subjects: Business Studies, English Communication, Information and Communication Technology, Prevocational Maths, Certificate III in Stonemasonry
OPS AND FPS: GET THE FACTS

Which subjects were used to calculate my OP?
OP calculations take into account the results of your best 20 semester units of credit in Authority subjects. These are determined after your Subject Achievement Indicators (SAIs) are scaled, so they might not be the subjects you expect.

Are some subjects worth more than others?
No. All Authority subjects are treated equally in OP calculations. A student can achieve a good OP with any combination of Authority subjects.

My friend and I both got five VHAs. Why did we get different OPs?
Not all students awarded a Very High Achievement (VHA) have performed at the same standard. Some students may be ranked at the top of the VHA range, while others may be doing just well enough to get a VHA. OPs are calculated from SAIs, not levels of achievement.

I got five SAIs of 400. Why didn’t I get an OP1?
An SAI of 400 indicates that you are the highest achieving student in a particular subject at your school. You may not be the best student overall in the school, nor among the top students in Queensland.

My school predicted I would get an OP2 but I only got an OP4. Why?
Your school doesn’t have access to the precise information needed to calculate your OP. Calculating OPs is a complex process, and includes Queensland Core Skills (QCS) Test results and the results you achieve in each subject. Although it’s important to have a realistic idea of the OP you might receive so you can make decisions about tertiary entrance, OPs cannot be predicted precisely ahead of time.

I was school dux. Why didn’t I get the highest OP at my school?
While being named dux at your school is a significant achievement, it doesn’t indicate your position in a statewide rank order (like your OP does). Rather, it is an indication of the way that your school sees your achievements in relation to other students at your school.

I got a VET certificate. Why didn’t I get a better OP?
VET certificates don’t contribute to the calculation of your OP. If you are OP-eligible and you complete a Certificate III or IV, it will not be combined with your OP or boost your OP. You will receive an OP based on your Authority subjects and a separate QTAC selection rank for your VET qualification. This rank is assigned by QTAC and they will consider it, as well as your OP, using whichever is more competitive.

I studied Maths B, so why didn’t I get an FP in Field D?
No subject on its own makes you eligible for a particular FP. To be eligible for an FP in a particular field you need to study a combination of subjects that give you 60 weighted semester units in that field. Maths B gives you only 20 weighted semester units towards FP D.

For more FAQs, visit the Student Connect website: www.studentconnect.qc.a.as.qld.edu.au.
If you didn’t get an OP, you can still be considered for tertiary entrance if you qualify for a QTAC selection rank and meet the course entry requirements.

QTAC selection ranks are calculated from schedules developed by QCAA and QTAC. The schedules provide ranks that are based on the best possible information about how well a student did compared with all other OP and OP-ineligible students.

QTAC expects to release selection ranks prior to the 21 December offer round. You can find out your QTAC selection rank by logging in to your QTAC application (if you are a QTAC applicant) or by calling QTAC on 1300 467 822 (if you are not a QTAC applicant).

Visit www.qtac.edu.au for more information.

Note: A QTAC selection rank may not be recognised in other states of Australia or overseas. Check with the relevant admissions office before applying.
TERTIARY STUDY OFFERS: DON’T DELAY!

Now you know your Year 12 results, make sure you give yourself the best chance of getting into your chosen course of study.

- Visit www.qtac.edu.au to get the most up-to-date course information and find out what’s changed since the QTAC Year 12 Guide to Further Study was published.
- If your residential address or email address has changed, update these by going to My Account in QTAC’s Application Services.
- Change or add to your course preferences on your QTAC application by 9 January 2018 to be considered in the 16 January 2018 offer round.
- Check your QTAC application on 16 January 2018 to find out if you have received a tertiary study offer. If you have received an offer, make sure you respond online by the nominated date or you may lose your right to that and further offers.
- Connect with QTAC on social media for important news and updates.

Not offered a place?

Check course cut-offs and, if required, contact QTAC to find out why you’ve missed out on a place. Also check the institution course vacancy lists on the QTAC website for possible further offers into courses. You can then change your course preferences and update your application in time for the 1 February 2018 offer round.

CONSIDERING A GAP YEAR?

A gap year can help you take stock, re-energise and develop a clear vision of your future.

Whether you choose to work, volunteer or travel, taking a year off after Year 12 could be something to consider, if you:

- aren’t sure what you want to do in the future
- don’t get into the course you really want
- want to take a break from studying
- want to gain new skills and experience to get into a course
- want to make some money before doing more study
- want to explore Australia or overseas.

Gap year options

If you’re interested in gap year programs, you’ll find lots of useful information, including videos and case studies, at these websites:

- Antipodeans Abroad: www.antipodeans.com.au
- Latitude Global Volunteering: www.latitude.org.au
- Student Exchange Australia New Zealand: www.studentexchange.org.au
- World Education Program Australia: www.wep.org.au
EMBRACING DESIGN GOLD

Only two years after finishing school, Garnet Evans’ interior design skills gained at TAFE Queensland have helped him win a design competition for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Village.

Garnet spent six months figuring out what to do after Year 12, before embarking on an interior design course at TAFE Queensland’s Coomera campus.

‘Eventually I realised that doing something I enjoyed and developing my networking skills would open up job opportunities,’ he said.

‘At school I found practical subjects with hands-on learning more engaging than traditional subjects such as Maths or English.

‘I’ve always liked design because there are so many creative options, so I thought I’d start with interior design and see how it went.

‘Through TAFE Queensland I landed an interior design job with a tile company, and won a design competition for a hair and beauty salon in the Games Village.

‘The best part about my course is working with head designers and being exposed to people across the industry.

‘At work I’m also learning new skills through a range of projects, from designing multiple apartments to visual merchandising for a flagship store.’

Garnet is now looking forward to the launch of his winning design in March 2018.

‘It’s definitely a career highlight to have my work showcased as part of the Games Village,’ he said.

‘Eventually I see myself in the media side of interior design, whether it be photo shoots, or profiling unique, unconventional spaces.

Garnet’s advice for school leavers: Be open to things you might not have considered – they might surprise you.

Garnet Evans, 19
Cleveland District State High School


Even if you’re not sure you’ll be good at something, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain.
WORK IT!

Whether you’re reassessing your study options, locking in your final uni preferences or thinking about taking a TAFE course, CQUniversity is a uni that knows what you need to succeed. We offer more than 300 TAFE and university courses across a wide range of study areas, plus the flexibility of studying at one of 15 Queensland locations or online via our renowned distance education mode. We can even help you meet the entry requirements of your course of choice with our free and hugely successful preparatory program, STEPS. Find out how you can be what you want to be with CQUniversity and register for a change of preference information session or online chat.

Top tips for success

- Make sure there aren’t any typographical errors in your application or résumé.
- Ask a family member or a friend to look over your application before you apply.
- Find out as much as you can about the organisation from their website or social media sites.
- Dress as neatly and formally as you can afford.
- Arrive early for your appointment so you have time to gather your thoughts.
- Have a clear understanding of your future goals – you might be asked what they are.
- Be courteous and maintain eye contact with your interviewer and any other staff you meet on the day.
- Prepare some answers to frequently asked interview questions, or ask a friend to do a mock interview.

Whether you’re looking for a part-time job while you’re studying or your first ‘real’ job after you’ve left school, finding the right fit can be challenging but also very exciting. There are lots of ways you can increase your chance of success.

When applying for a job, most employers will ask you to send or email them your résumé/curriculum vitae and a cover letter. They may also ask you to complete some selection criteria. If your job application is successful, you will be asked to attend an interview. If you are selected for an interview, it’s important to make a good first impression.

Top tips for success

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A CHANGE OF PERSPECTIVE

Krysta’s goal to become a teacher stemmed from one of her proudest moments.

‘I was helping work experience students as part of an engineering traineeship with Gladstone Ports Corporation, and one said he wanted to be just like me,’ she said.

‘It was an extremely proud moment and it motivated me towards teaching.’

Krysta didn’t always want to be a teacher, but the traineeship made her reassess her plans.

‘Graphics, Maths and Art were my favourite subjects at school, and I was focused on doing building design,’ she said.

‘I was accepted into the course, but deferred when I was offered the traineeship.

‘As well as completing a Certificate III in Manufacturing Technology and a Certificate IV in Engineering Drafting, I was awarded Gladstone Ports Corporation’s Indigenous Trainee and Apprentice of the Year award, and the Queensland Training Awards’ Central Queensland Vocational Student of the Year.

‘The most rewarding aspect was helping work experience students, as it inspired me to change my career path.’

Krysta is now studying secondary teaching at Central Queensland University, majoring in Maths and Information Technology and Design, and was recently selected for an Arrow Energy scholarship.

‘I’ve worked in retail for a number of years, but it’s fantastic to have extra financial support to help with my first year,’ she said.

‘I’m glad I took this path and hope to influence future generations.’

Krysta’s advice to school leavers: Try as hard as you can and if you’re out of options, try again.

Krysta Greer, 19
Toolooa State High School, Gladstone

WANT TO TALK ABOUT YOUR RESULTS?

If you have a question about your QCE, Senior Statement, Tertiary Entrance Statement or the results in your learning account, call the Student Connect hotline on 1800 804 991.

Hotline hours
- Saturday 16 December: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
- Monday 18 December to Friday 22 December: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
- Tuesday 2 January 2018 onwards: 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.

If you have a question about tertiary selection ranks, bonus ranks or special consideration due to difficult circumstances, contact QTAC on 1300 467 822.

RIGHT NOW, IT’S HOW YOU LEARN THAT COUNTS.

To be truly successful in your career, you need to know how to respond to your world, moment by moment. The way you learn at Bond University means you’ll never be left behind. You’ll experience things that’ll push you forward. Because you’ll learn how to learn in the now – challenging, volunteering, practising and collaborating.

Apply now to Australia’s #1 university for student experience.*

bond.edu.au/applynow

CRICOS Provider Code 00217B
*2018 Good Universities Guide.